

ABBREVIATED PRELIMINARY ASSESSMENT

BLACK JACK MINE



Umatilla National Forest
Grant County, Oregon

March 2003

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Forest Service performed an Abbreviated Preliminary Assessment for the Blackjack Mine (Site) to determine the need for further site characterization. The Site waste piles are placed on steep side slopes and a portion are located within the Clear Creek floodplain. A visual inspection was made of the Site.

Based on visual observation, the fact that material is similar to the Bluebird mine, Acid Mine Drainage (AMD) that drains into a wetland area that is now approximately 20 years of age, apparent signs of the pipeline malfunctioning, a second adit with AMD discharging directly into Clear Creek, it is recommended that a Site Inspection be performed.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

An Abbreviated Preliminary Assessment (APA) was performed by the US Forest Service in accordance with the EPA "Guidance for Performing Preliminary Assessments Under CERCLA", EPA "Improving Site Assessment: Abbreviated Preliminary Assessments" of 1999, the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA) of 1980, the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act (SARA) of 1986, and the National Contingency Plan as outlined in 40 CFR Parts 300.410(c)(1)(i-v).

The purpose of this assessment was to determine whether or not there is a potential for a release of contaminants to the environment and/or to human health. The purpose of an APA is to determine whether further site characterization is warranted.

2.0 SITE DESCRIPTION, OPERATIONAL HISTORY, AND WASTE CHARACTERISTICS

The Blackjack Mine (Site) is located approximately 5.5 miles southwest of Granite, OR, on Forest Service Road 13. The legal description for the Site is; Latitude: 44° 47' 09"N, Longitude: 118° 27' 59"W, Sec 14, T 9 S, R 35 E, USGS Quadrangle Map - Granite. The Site is situated on steep hillsides adjacent to Clear Creek. The Site is located in the mining district of Granite.

The Site consists of two adits of which the upper adit is currently sealed off with a bulkhead. Water is drained from the adit via PVC piping, which goes underneath Clear Creek and is intentionally discharged to a man-made wetland on the opposite side of Clear Creek from the Site. The lower adit discharges water directly into Clear Creek. The Site consists of a large waste pile. The waste pile is situated on top of steep side slopes and in the flood zone of Clear Creek. There are no structures, other than the adit, in the area. Accessing the site requires crossing Clear Creek on foot, as there are no bridges or roads on the Site. Approximately two acres are disturbed on the Site.

There is limited historical data available on this mine. It appears this mine was developed in the early 1900s, and consists of 3000 feet of underground drift. No production ever occurred at this Site, but development was intended for gold and silver.

The waste pile is from hardrock mining and contains coloration indicative of high iron content. Little is known of the ore materials, however, the mine dump contains fragments of argillite host rock with quartz and minor pyrite and arsenopyrite. Currently, the Site is inactive.

3.0 SITE SAMPLING AND TEST RESULTS

There are no sampling results as this was a visual inspection made during the summer of 2001.

4.0 SUMMARY

Based on visual observation, the material is similar to the Bluebird mine. Acid Mine Drainage (AMD) from the upper adit drains into a wetland area that is now approximately 20 years of age. The lower adit discharges AMD directly into Clear Creek. There are apparent signs of the pipeline for the upper adit malfunctioning.

5.0 RECOMMENDATION

Based upon visual observations, it is recommended that an SI be performed. As part of this inspection process, it is recommended that the wetlands be tested and assessments made as to its life expectancy.

Appendix A

ABBREVIATED PRELIMINARY ASSESSMENT CHECKLIST

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This checklist can be used to help the site investigator determine if an Abbreviated Preliminary Assessment (APA) is warranted. This checklist should document the rationale for the decision on whether further steps in the site assessment process are required under CERCLA. Use additional sheets, if necessary.

Checklist Preparer: Dennis Boles, Environmental Engineer July 2001
(Name/Title) (Date)

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Site Name: Blackjack Mine

Previous Names (if any): None

Site Location: The Site is located approximately 5.5 miles southwest of Granite, OR on FS Road 13. The site is located on the riparian area of Clear Creek.

Legal Description: Latitude: 44°47'09"N Longitude: 118°27'59"W

Describe the release (or potential release) and its probable nature: Clear Creek runs about 75 feet from the toe of the waste pile. AMD discharges directly into Clear Creek

Part 1 - Superfund Eligibility Evaluation

If All answers are "no" go on to Part 2, otherwise proceed to Part 3	YES	NO
1. Is the site currently in CERCLIS or an "alias" of another site?		X
2. Is the site being addressed by some other remedial program (Federal, State, or Tribal)?		X
3. Are the hazardous substances potentially released at the site regulated under a statutory exclusion (i.e., petroleum, natural gas, natural gas liquids, synthetic gas usable for fuel, normal application of fertilizer, release located in a workplace, naturally occurring, or regulated by the NRC, UMTRCA, or OSHA)?		X
4. Are the hazardous substances potentially released at the site excluded by policy considerations (i.e., deferred to RCRA corrective action)?		X
5. Is there sufficient documentation to demonstrate that no potential for a release that could cause adverse environmental or human health impacts exist (i.e., comprehensive remedial investigation equivalent data showing no release above ARAR's, completed removal action, documentation showing that no hazardous substance release have occurred, or an EPA approved risk assessment completed)?		X

Please explain all “yes” answer(s), _____

Part 2 - Initial Site Evaluation

For Part 2, if information is not available to make a “yes” or “no” response, further investigation may be needed. In these cases, determine whether an APA is appropriate. Exhibit 1 parallels the questions in Part 2. Use Exhibit 1 to make decisions in Part 3.

If the answer is “no” to any questions 1, 2, or 3, proceed directly to Part 3.	YES	NO
1. Does the site have a release or a potential to release?	X	
2. Does the site have uncontained sources containing CERCLA eligible substances?	X	
3. Does the site have documented on-site, adjacent, or nearby targets?		X

If the answers to questions 1, 2, and 3 above were all “yes” then answer the questions below before proceeding to Part 3.	YES	NO
4. Does documentation indicate that a target (i.e., drinking water wells, drinking surface water intakes, etc.) has been exposed to a hazardous substance released from the site?		X
5. Is there an apparent release at the site with no documentation of exposed targets, but there are targets on site or immediately adjacent to the site?	X	
6. Is there an apparent release and no documented on-site targets or targets immediately adjacent to the site, but there are nearby targets (i.e., targets within 1 mile)?	X	
7. Is there no indication of a hazardous substance release, and there are uncontained sources containing CERCLA hazardous substances, but there is a potential to release with targets present on site or in proximity to the site?		X

Notes:

EXHIBIT 1

SITE ASSESSMENT DECISION GUIDELINES FOR A SITE

Exhibit 1 identifies different types of site information and provides some possible recommendations for further site assessment activities based on that information. You will use Exhibit 1 in determining the need for further action at the site, based on the answers to the questions in Part 2. Please use your professional judgment when evaluating a site. Your judgment may be different from the general recommendations for a site given below.

Suspected/Documented Site Conditions		APA	FULL PA	PA/SI	SI
1. There are no releases or potential to release.		Yes	No	No	No
2. No uncontained sources with CERCLA-eligible substances are present on site.		Yes	No	No	No
3. There are no on-site, adjacent, or nearby targets		Yes	No	No	No
4. There is documentation indicating that a target (i.e., drinking water wells, drinking surface water intakes, etc.) has been exposed to a hazardous substance released from the site.	Option 1: APA SI	Yes	No	No	Yes
	Option 2: PA/SI	No	No	Yes	No
5. There is an apparent release at the site with no documentation of exposed targets, but there are targets on site or immediately adjacent to the site.	Option 1: APA SI	Yes	No	No	Yes
	Option 2: PA/SI	No	No	Yes	N/A
6. There is an apparent release and no documented on-site targets and no documented immediately adjacent to the site, but there are nearby targets. Nearby targets are those targets that are located within 1 mile of the site and have a relatively high likelihood of exposure to a hazardous substance migrating from the site.		No	Yes	No	No
7. There is no indication of a hazardous substance release, and there are uncontained sources containing CERCLA hazardous substances, but there is a potential to release with targets present on site or in proximity to the site.		No	Yes	No	No

Part 3 - EPA Site Assessment Decision

When completing Part 3, use Part 2 and Exhibit 1 to select the appropriate decision. For example, if the answer to question 1 in Part 2 was “no,” then an APA may be performed and the “NFRAP” box below should be checked. Additionally, if the answer to question 4 in Part 2 is “yes,” then you have two options (as indicated in Exhibit 1): Option 1 -- conduct an APA and check the “Lower Priority SI” or “Higher Priority SI” box below; or Option 2 -- proceed with a combined PA/SI assessment.

Check the box that applies based on the conclusions of the APA:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> NFRAP | <input type="checkbox"/> Refer to Removal Program – further site assessment needed |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Higher Priority SI | <input type="checkbox"/> Refer to Removal Program – NFRAP |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lower Priority SI | <input type="checkbox"/> Site is being addressed as part of another CERCLIS site |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Defer to RCRA Subtitle C | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Defer to NRC | |

Regional EPA Reviewer: N/A _____
Print Name/Signature
Date

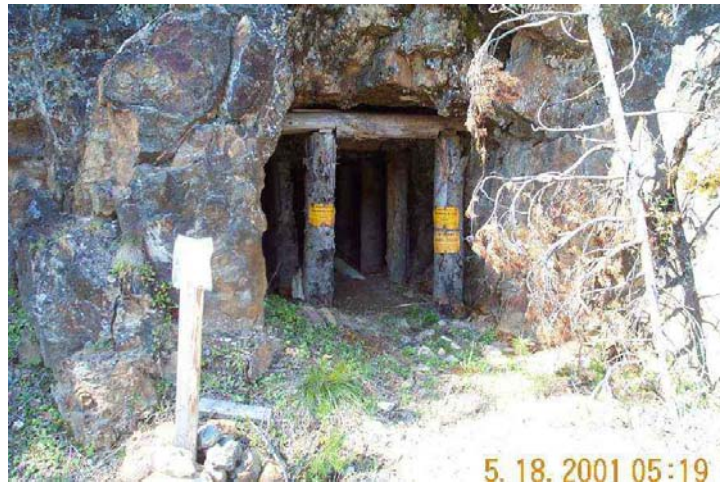
PLEASE EXPLAIN THE RATIONALE FOR YOUR DECISION:

Material at the Blackjack site is similar to that of Bluebird. AMD drains directly into Clear Creek, which is prime spawning habitat for Salmon and Steelhead

NOTES:

The Site sits on steep side slopes and getting drilling equipment on the waste piles is not possible.

Appendix B
SITE PHOTOS



Upper Adit



Bulkhead – Upper Adit



*Yellowboy – Clear Creek
Riparian Area*